

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2683
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
Diamonds Trading by Farmers
Reddy Shri Konda Vishweshwar

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken cognizance of the fact that in some areas of Telangana, such as Mahbubnagar, and in Andhra Pradesh such as Kurnool and Rayalseema, the diamonds are very near to the surface of the soil due to high kimberlite deposits in these areas and can be easily accessed by the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether diamonds are picked by the farmers, especially during monsoons after the soil washes away and sold to either merchants or dealers in illegal trading, often at unfair price; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to buy these diamonds from the farmers directly, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) to (c): As per survey of Geological Survey of India [GSI], kimberlite pipes and lamproites bodies (the primary source rocks for diamond) reported from Mahbubnagar district, Telangana are non-diamondiferous. However, those reported from Kurnool and Ananthpur (Rayalseema) districts, Andhra Pradesh are poorly diamondiferous.

Due to weathering by natural calamities and local weather, the near-surface pipes are weathered, damaged and normally washed away. As informed by the State government of Andhra Pradesh, picking of diamonds after rains is very rare incidence. However, in Kurnool district, two cases against farmers were booked. But in Ananthpur district, no cases have been booked so far.

(d): As of now, the government has no such proposal.